

**HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT[441]**

**Adopted and Filed**

**Rule making related to foster parent training**

The Human Services Department hereby amends Chapter 117, “Foster Parent Training,” Iowa Administrative Code.

*Legal Authority for Rule Making*

This rule making is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 237.3.

*State or Federal Law Implemented*

This rule making implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code section 237.3.

*Purpose and Summary*

The rules in Chapter 117 were reviewed as part of the Department’s five-year rules review. This rule making reduces the minimum number of persons required to be in a group for preservice foster parent training. Each foster parent is required to complete preservice training before licensure. Before a foster parent is licensed, the individual must complete a variety of agency-approved training courses that teach foster parents how to support a child’s overall well-being and emotional needs.

This rule making allows in-service training to be provided either face-to-face or through interactive virtual training when provided to a group or an individual foster family. This rule making requires foster parents to be certified in first aid every two years instead of every three years as previously required. The requirement to complete the course “Caring for Children with HIV” or an approved alternative course that contains information on the unique aspects of pediatric HIV disease, transmission and infection control, the spectrum of HIV disease, confidentiality, death and bereavement, and self-care for the caregiver is rescinded because communicable diseases are covered by other trainings. This rule making also adds a requirement that the Department’s recruitment and retention contractor be notified if a foster parent elects not to receive a training stipend.

*Public Comment and Changes to Rule Making*

Notice of Intended Action for this rule making was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on September 21, 2022, as **ARC 6536C**. No public comments were received. No changes from the Notice have been made.

*Adoption of Rule Making*

This rule making was adopted by the Council on Human Services on November 10, 2022.

*Fiscal Impact*

This rule making has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

*Jobs Impact*

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

*Waivers*

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rule making would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Department for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to rule 441—1.8(17A,217).

*Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee*

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rule making by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rule making at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

*Effective Date*

This rule making will become effective on February 1, 2023.

The following rule-making actions are adopted:

ITEM 1. Amend paragraph **117.1(2)“d”** as follows:

*d. Group method.* The program shall be provided in groups that consist of ~~six~~ three or more persons. The training shall be offered to a foster family individually only when the foster family is unable to attend group training for reasons such as serious medical conditions, as approved by the social work administrator or designee.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 117.1(4) as follows:

**117.1(4) Additional preservice training.** Before licensure, each foster parent shall complete training in an agency-approved medication management course, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), first aid, the reasonable and prudent parent standard, and the mandatory reporter training on child abuse identification. Training shall also be completed that teaches foster parents how to support a child's overall well-being and emotional needs.

ITEM 3. Amend rule 441—117.3(237), introductory paragraph, as follows:

**441—117.3(237) Application materials for in-service training.** Applications for approval of an in-service training program shall be submitted on Form 470-2541, ~~Foster Parent Training Application~~, and must be approved before the delivery of the training. Applications submitted after a training is completed shall not be approved.

ITEM 4. Amend subrule 117.5(3) as follows:

**117.5(3) Denial.** Preservice training programs which do not meet the requirements in rules 441—117.1(237), 441—117.3(237), and 441—117.4(237) and in-service training programs which do not meet the criteria in rules 441—117.3(237), 441—117.4(237) and 441—117.7(237) shall be denied approval. The applicant may submit a revised program for approval at a later date.

ITEM 5. Amend rule 441—117.7(237), introductory paragraph, as follows:

**441—117.7(237) Required in-service training.** At least six hours of in-service training are required to assist foster parents in confidently and effectively addressing the needs of children placed in foster care. ~~The Foster Parent Training Plan~~, Form 470-3341, shall be used to address in-service training needs. The training plan shall be developed with the department or retention and recruitment contractor and the foster parent annually.

ITEM 6. Amend subparagraphs **117.7(2)“b”(1)** and **(2)** as follows:

- (1) Face-to-face or interactive virtual training to a group.
- (2) Face-to-face or interactive virtual training to an individual foster family.

ITEM 7. Amend paragraph **117.7(2)“c”** as follows:

*c. Credit hours.* Credit hours for approved training shall be as follows:

- (1) Group training shall receive one credit hour for each face-to-face or interactive virtual contact hour.
- (2) Written materials shall receive one credit hour for each 100 pages.
- (3) DVDs or videotapes shall receive one credit hour for each two program hours.

(4) College courses shall receive one credit hour for each college credit hour.

(5) Internet training classes shall receive one credit hour for each program hour. A maximum of three hours of training credit per year may be earned through the ~~Web site~~ website [www.fosterparents.com](http://www.fosterparents.com).

ITEM 8. Amend paragraph **117.7(3)“c”** as follows:

*c. Documentation.* Each individual foster parent shall submit Form 470-2540, ~~Foster Parent Training Report~~, to the recruitment and retention contractor within 30 days after completion of each in-service training.

ITEM 9. Amend subrule 117.8(2) as follows:

**117.8(2) First aid.** All foster parents shall be certified in first aid at least every ~~three~~ two years and shall maintain their first-aid certification and a certificate or card indicating the date of training and expiration.

ITEM 10. Rescind subrule **117.8(4)**.

ITEM 11. Amend subrule 117.9(1) as follows:

**117.9(1) Training stipend.** Each family that is issued an initial or renewal foster family home license shall receive a \$100 stipend to be used for the family’s annual in-service training. The department’s recruitment and retention contractor shall issue one stipend per license on or after the date that the license is issued. When a family with a two-year foster family home license has completed the first training cycle of six hours of in-service training, the contractor shall issue the next training stipend no earlier than the start of the second year of licensure contingent upon the foster family’s completion of the in-service training hours in the first cycle. Foster families who elect not to receive the \$100 stipend shall notify the department and the contractor.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 11/30/22.